

Met Office Climate Science Conference: Science for a resilient future

Innovation in science and services to address the societal challenges of climate change and build a more resilient net zero future.

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 May 2021

Introduction

Spanning two days, this conference will bring together leading scientists, policy makers and communicators from around the world with the aim of setting out a vision for how climate science and services can be harnessed to support the ambitions of diverse societies worldwide to build a more sustainable, more resilient low carbon future. Its legacy will be to lay out a scientific agenda to inform climate policy over the next decade.

The conference narrative, structured around four overarching theme, will look to explore the latest scientific understanding of the challenge of climate change (themes 1&2 on day one) before assessing potential actions (themes 3&4 on day two), whilst also including perspectives from both the global north and south with sessions specifically devoted to exploring Pan-African climate viewpoints.

The narrative, drawn out from speaker and panel discussions, will provide support for the three flagship science programmes of the UK's COP26 presidency: climate risk assessment, visions of net zero and health. Day one will help highlight the importance of high ambition for both adaptation and mitigation actions by presenting the latest scientific understanding on low probability, high end impacts and the associated systemic risks across sectors and borders to help prioritise action on climate change. The final day will help to improve understanding and draw on evidence-based science, engineering and social science solutions to address climate change and mitigate against its harmful effects, whilst also providing a platform to explore the associated wider benefits, helping to demonstrate that a resilient net zero future is both feasible and desirable.

Draft agenda

Including confirmed speakers and panellists

Tuesday 11 May 2021		<i>Conference host – Clare Nasir, Met Office Senior Presenter</i>	
09.00-09.30	Welcome addresses <i>Professor Stephen Belcher, Met Office Chief Scientist</i> <i>Sir Patrick Vallance, UK Government Chief Scientific Adviser</i>		
09.30-11.20 Break 10.25-10.35	Theme 1 - Current and future risks from climate To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A <u>Chair</u> <i>Prof Richard Betts MBE, Met Office</i> <u>Keynote speakers</u> <i>Baroness Brown of Cambridge Julia King, Member of House of Lords</i> <i>Prof Dame Julia Slingo, Former Met Office Chief Scientist (retired)</i> <u>Panellists</u> <i>Prof Tim Benton, Chatham House</i> <i>Dr Pam Berry, Oxford University</i> <i>Prof Suraje Dessai, Leeds University</i> <i>Prof Hayley Fowler, Newcastle University</i> <i>Dr Dann Mitchell, Bristol University</i>		
11.20-12.00	Poster session 1	Side event <i>Young people's questions on climate</i> <i>Led by Felicity Liggins, Met Office Education Outreach Manager</i>	Networking breakout rooms
12.00-13.00	Lunch		
13.00-14:35	Theme 2 - High impact, low likelihood outcomes of climate change (including tipping points) To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A <u>Chair</u> <i>Prof Mark New, University of Capetown</i> <u>Keynote speakers</u> <i>Simon Sharpe, Cabinet Office</i> <i>Prof Thomas Stocker, University of Bern</i> <u>Panellists</u> <i>Prof Rowan Sutton, NCAS</i> <i>Prof Michel Crucifix, UCL</i> <i>Crystal Moore, Environment Agency</i> <i>Prof Katharine Mach, Miami University</i>		

14.35-15.00	Break		
15.00-15.45	Poster session 2	Side event <i>Visualising climate science</i> Led by Ross Middleham, Met Office Content & Social Lead and Emma Lawrence, Met Office Design & Content Intern	Networking breakout rooms
15.45-17:05	<p>Pan-Africa climate perspectives</p> <p>To include keynote speech on science and a panel discussion with Q&A</p> <p><u>Co-chairs</u> Prof Rosa Barciela, Met Office Dr Arame Tall, World Bank</p> <p><u>Keynote speaker</u> Prof Francois Engelbrecht, Global Change Institute</p> <p><u>Panellists</u> Prof Fred Semazzi, NC State University Mr Andre Kamga, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development Prof Barbara Evans, Leeds University Dr Cath Senior, Met Office</p>		
17.05-17.10	Closing remarks		
17.10-18.00	Informal networking		

Wednesday 12 May 2021	<i>Conference host – Clare Nasir, Met Office Senior Presenter</i>
09.00-09.20	<p>Welcome addresses</p> <p><i>Prof Albert Klein Tank, Head Met Office Hadley Centre</i></p> <p><i>Rt Hon Alok Sharma, COP26 President</i></p>
09.20-09.55	<p>Pan-Africa climate perspectives</p> <p>To include keynote speeches and Q&A on technological entrepreneurship and youth: looking to the future</p> <p><u>Co-chairs</u> <i>Prof Rosa Barciela, Met Office</i> <i>Makoto Suwa, World Bank</i></p> <p><u>Keynote speakers</u> <i>Ms Zinhle Ngidi, Entrepreneur</i> <i>Ms Amy Pieterse, CSIR</i></p>
09.55-10.00	<i>Break</i>
10.00-11.20	<p>Pan-Africa climate perspectives</p> <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a panel discussion with Q&A on technological entrepreneurship and youth: looking to the future; and • a keynote speech on policy and a panel discussion with donors including Q&A <p><u>Co-chairs</u> <i>Prof Rosa Barciela, Met Office</i> <i>Makoto Suwa, World Bank</i></p> <p><u>Keynote speaker</u> <i>Mr Ernest Afiesimama, World Meteorological Organization</i></p> <p><u>Panellists</u> <i>Ms Pato Kelesitse, Resilient 40</i> <i>Ms Adenike Oladosu, Climate activist</i> <i>Mr Bahati Satir Omar, Social Entrepreneur</i> <i>Ms Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti, Environment & climate activist</i> <i>Dr Mokhele Moeletsi, Agricultural Research Council</i> <i>Mr Boitumelo Nkatlo, BN Aqua Solutions</i> <i>Dr Madeleine Thomson, Wellcome Trust</i> <i>Dr Judy Omumbo, Africa Academy of Sciences</i> <i>Mrs Susie Kitchens, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</i> <i>Dr Rosalind West, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office</i></p>
11.20-11.30	<i>Break</i>

11.30-12.15	Poster session 3	Side event <i>Poetry workshop with Mr Gee</i>	Networking breakout rooms
12.15-13.00	<i>Lunch</i>		
13.00-14:35	<p>Theme 3 - Future carbon and mitigation strategies to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change</p> <p>To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A</p> <p><u>Chair</u> <i>Dr Ajay Gambhir, Imperial College London</i></p> <p><u>Keynote speakers</u> <i>Prof Paul Monks, BEIS</i> <i>The Right Honourable Lord Stern of Brentford, LSE</i></p> <p><u>Panellists</u> <i>Prof Catherine Mitchell, Exeter Uni</i> <i>Prof Alice Larkin, Manchester Uni</i> <i>Prof Laura Diaz Anadon, Cambridge Uni</i> <i>Prof Jenny Nelson, Imperial College London</i> <i>Mr Jim Maltby, DSTL</i></p>		
14.35-15.00	<i>Break</i>		
15.00-16.35	<p>Theme 4 - Climate resilient development: minimising impacts and trade-offs, and maximising the co-benefits of mitigation and adaptation</p> <p>To include keynote speeches on policy and science and a panel discussion with Q&A</p> <p><u>Co-chairs</u> <i>Prof Lea Berrang Ford, Leeds University</i> <i>Prof Jason Lowe OBE, Met Office</i></p> <p><u>Keynote speakers</u> <i>Prof Joyashree Roy, Jadavpur University</i> <i>Prof Brian O'Neill, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</i> <i>Prof Charlotte Watts, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office</i></p> <p><u>Panellists</u> <i>Dr Neil Jennings, Imperial College London</i> <i>Prof Mans Nilsson, Stockholm Environment Institute</i> <i>Dr Jessica Omukuti, University of York</i> <i>Dr Adelle Thomas, Bahamas University</i> <i>Ms Rupa Mukerji, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation</i></p>		
16.35-16.40	Mr Gee closing poem		
16.40-17.00	<p>Summarising remarks</p> <p><i>Prof Peter Stott, Met Office</i></p>		

Prof Stephen Belcher, Met Office

17.00- 17:05

Closing address

Prof Penny Endersby, Met Office Chief Executive